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The Challenge of Translating the Arabic Preposition Fi and Min Into Malay: The Analysis Samples of Translation Diversity and Strategies for Solving Them

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Abstract: This study aims to discuss the results of the analysis in the diversity of translations provided by the translation of Arabic prepositions, namely fi and min, into Malay, especially among translators. It provides exposure to the challenges in translating prepositions. The methodology used includes text analysis, and field samples. This approach provides a convincing understanding of the translators' skills and their understanding of the context of the source text. The variety of translation of prepositions used by translators of a source text is influenced by syntactic aspects and also the meaning of the context. The implications of this variety give an impression of the challenges faced by translators in translating the prepositions fi and min. It is also influenced by the level of language proficiency possessed by the translators. With this, a translator needs to have an effective strategy in translating prepositions according to the needs of the text and the context. The findings of this study also provide space for a detailed discussion on teaching and learning strategies that can be introduced to improve students translation skills, especially in the context of linguistic and cultural diversity in Islamic Universities.

Keywords: Strategy, translation, diversity, Phrase Challenge

INTRODUCTION

Translation is an important process in communication between different languages. In the context of globalization and increasing interaction between various cultures, translation plays an important role in enabling the exchange of information and understanding between individuals from different linguistic backgrounds. However, in translation, there are often challenges and errors that arise due to differences in structure, syntax, and semantics between the target language and the source language. The differences between the two languages can occur because in Arabic, it is inseparable from the use of Arabic prepositions or *Huruf Jar* as the smallest unit in the science of Nahwu (Napis, 2019). Zainur Rijal emphasizes that the Arabic language is indeed rich in vocabulary, terms, and has its own grammar. It is clear that

the Arabic language has grammatical characteristics that are very different from the Malay language (Zainur Rijal B. Abdul Razak & Mahmoud Mohammed Ali, 2014).

In the Malay context, Arabic is often needed in education, especially among Islamic University students who study religious sciences and Arabic literature. University students are often faced with translation tasks, especially in the context of translating Arabic prepositions into Malay. Arabic prepositions basically refer to words that connect phrases or sentences in Arabic, such as prepositions, pronouns, and words that show possession. Arabic prepositions themselves also have a variety of grammatical meanings, and also have a very large function in Arabic. For example, the results of research on the Arabic preposition *Ba* (باء) which has 14 different meanings in Arabic and the same goes for other Arabic prepositions which of course have more than one meaning. (Muh.Saifullah, Mukhtar, Rahmat R, Basri Mahmud, Hamzah, 2021).

However, translating Arabic prepositions into Malay is not an easy task. There are several important differences in the structure and use of prepositions between the two languages. Translation errors in this context can have a serious impact on the understanding and interpretation of the text, especially in Arabic religious and literary texts that are important in the context of Islamic University students' studies. According to Azman, the problem that Arabic students or Arabic-Malay translators often face is mastery of the use of Arabic prepositions (Azman Che Mat, 2005). The use of Arabic prepositions can be categorized into three levels, namely the lexical level, the phrase level, and the word-composition level. In addition, the weakness of understanding the various functions of Arabic prepositions also leads to errors in understanding Arabic texts in various genres (Ismail Muhamad & Azman Bin Che Mat, 2010).

This case study aims to analyze the challenges of translating the Arabic Prepositions *fi* (في) and *min* (من) into Malay, particularly among translators. The main objectives of this study are to identify the types of errors that commonly occur, the factors that contribute to these errors, and to suggest appropriate strategies to correct errors in translating Arabic prepositions into Malay.

METHOD

This study is a descriptive study that aims to describe, examine, and analyze certain phenomena clearly and systematically. This approach allows researchers to collect data, analyze errors, and conclude based on the facts obtained. In this study, the methodology will be applied by using a number of forms containing Arabic compound sentences that will be translated into Malay.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the descriptive analysis and study data stated below, the main findings of this study are as follows:

- a) The need for translators to understand Malay grammar in the process of translating the Arabic Preposition *min* (من): In Arabic, there are various word of preposition that influence changes in the form of the verb or noun that accompanies it. The use of grammar in the translation of Arabic-Malay prepositions need to be emphasized in terms of their function in the structure of the verse. According to the previous discussion, it was found that the translation of the Preposition *min* (من) was translated into the words (*dari*) and (*daripada*) and it was found that some translators did not understand Malay grammar from the perspective of both functions of these words.

- b) Variety of translations of the Arabic preposition *fi* (في) in Malay: In this context, the translator translates the Arabic preposition *fi* (في) with a variety of translations, including (*di, dalam, didalam, terhadap, dengan, pada, kepada, ke*). In this case, the translation of the translated preposition *fi* (في) must be in accordance with the Malay grammar.
- c) The Misunderstanding of Meaning in the Translation Process: Arabic and Malay have cultural and social differences that affect the meaning of certain words. Misunderstanding the true meaning of Arabic prepositions and conveying the wrong meaning in Malay. Some of the things that often happen are misunderstandings about the cultural and social context that involves the use of words in translation.

Discussion

This study focuses on analyzing the challenges in translating the Arabic Prepositions *fi* (في) and *min* (من) among translators. Through the use of descriptive analysis methodology to identify the forms of these errors. This study is taken from translation exercises carried out by students in the lecture hall. A total of 15 selected Arabic sentences containing the Arabic prepositions *fi* and *min* were translated by translators among the student participants in the study. The examples of Arabic sentences and Malay translations and their numbers are given as follows:

Table 1: List of Arabic prepositional phrases and Malay translations

No	Arabic sentences/phrases	Arabic Prepositions	Malay Translations
	أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم	من	Daripada(21) Dari(12)
	أستيقظ مبكراً عند الفجر لأصلي صلاة الصبح في المسجد	في	Di (32) Dalam(1)
	عادت الطالبة التي سافرت للعمرة إلى بيتها للاستراحة من عناء السفر	من	Daripada(12) Dari(15)
	رأى محمد في سيارة أبيه كتابه	في	Dalam(5) Di(11) Di dalam(17)
	طارق ذهب إلى المدير في مكتبه	في	Di(30) Di dalam(1) Dalam(1)
	تسامح محمد وفاطمة في المشكلة	في	Dalam(21) Di dalam(2) Terhadap(1) Dengan(4)
	الأمن أساس السعادة في الحياة	في	Dalam(28) Di dalam(5)
	في ذلك اليوم لم أشعر بالاطمئنان	في	Pada(26)
	إذا فقدت الأمن تعيش في ضيق	في	Dalam(18) Dengan (2) Di dalam(2) Kepada(1)

	كان الطلاب حاضرين في الميدان	في	Di(27) Dalam(2) Ke(3)
	هذه نعمة من الله لنا جميعا	من	Daripada(16) Dari(16)
	رأيت الصديق ينحني من الكوارث	من	Dari(14) Daripada(11)
	التعليم في الماضي يختلف عن الحاضر بالوسائل والتسهيلات	في	Pada(20) Di (7) Dalam(1)
	ظل كثير من اللغات الإسلامية تكتب بالخط العربي	من	Dari(11) Daripada(11)

Translation Diversity Sample Analysis

Referring to sample number 1 in the Translation of *min* (من), the translation given is as follows: " *Aku berindung dengan Allah dari syaitan yang direjam* " (Table 1). The translator made a mistake in the use of the word *dari*, this is due to the function of the word from which refers to direction, place, and time. In the sentence above, we find that if the noun after *min* (من) indicates the direction, place, and time, then it should be translated as *dari*. However, if the noun after *min* shows the source or origin of humans, animals, things, and abstract concepts, or shows differences and comparisons, then it should be translated as *daripada*.

Referring to sample number 3 in the translation of the preposition *min* (من). The translation given is as follows " *Pelajar yang telah berlayar untuk umrah telah pulang ke rumahnya untuk berehat dari kelelahan belayar* " (Table 1). The translator has made a mistake in using the Malay Preposition *dari*, this is because the function of the word *dari* only refers to direction, place and time. In the sentence above, the word *dari* is more appropriate to use because of its function which refers to the cause of humans, animals, objects and abstract matters or shows differences and comparisons (Nik Safiah Karim, Farid M.Onn, Hashim Haji Musa, and Abdul Hamid Mahmood, 2008).

Meanwhile, in the translation of the preposition *fi* (في), in sample number 4 above, the translation given is as follows " *Muhammad melihat di kereta bapanya bukunya* " (Table 1) The translator has translated the sentence using the malay preposition *di*. This is because the use of the malay preposition *di* is specifically used in front of a noun or noun phrase that indicates a place, for example: *Ibunya bekerja di sekolah itu*. The use of " *di dalam kereta* " is more accurate, this is because the use of *di dalam* is used to describe an environment that has space or distance (Mohd Hilmi Abdullah, 2015).

Based on sample 12 on the translation of the preposition *min* (من), the translation given is as follows: " *Saya telah melihat kejujuran* " (Table 1). The translator has made a mistake by leaving the translation of the Preposition *min* (من) for the completeness of the meaning and context of the original sentence. The use of the Preposition *daripada* as (for example: *Saya melihat kejujuran menyelamatkan saya daripada bencana*) is more accurate to complete the translation of the meaning and context of the Arabic expression.

Based on sample 13 on the preposition *fi* (في), the translation given is as follows: " *Pelajaran di masa lalu berbeza dari masa sekarang dengan cara-caranya dan kemudahannya* " (Table 1). The translator has made a mistake in using the Malay preposition *di* on the Arabic preposition *fi* (في). This is because the preposition *di* cannot be used in front of a noun or a noun phrase that describes time, time or era. The use of the Malay preposition

pada is more accurate, this is because it is used before a noun or a noun phrase that shows time information, or that shows the place of action of a verb, or after the word *ada* (Nik Safiah Karim, Farid M. Onn, Hashim Haji Musa, and Abdul Hamid Mahmood, 2008).

Translation strategies for the Arabic prepositions *fi* (في) and *min* (من) and how to solve them

The word Strategy is defined as an organized plan that takes into account various factors to achieve goals and success (Kamus Dewan Fourth Edition, 2015). In the meantime, to overcome the challenges of translating the Arabic prepositions *fi* (في) and *min* (من), there are several strategies that can be used by translators along with ways to solve them:

a) Understand the meaning and structure of the source language by referring to Malay grammar books

In Arabic, the word *fi* and *min* are used as one form of the *huruf jar* (حروف الجر) or preposition. Overall, it is clear that the preposition, including *min*, will not give the correct meaning unless it is used correctly in the context of a complete sentence. For a deeper understanding of the preposition *min*, it is important to explain the connotation of the meaning carried by the preposition in the Arabic grammar (Shahrizal Nasir, Kamarul Nasir 2021), According to (al-Rummani, 1984) and (Lushan, 2006), among the meanings of the preposition *min* are as follows:

No	Meanings of the Preposition "Min"	Examples	Malay Translation
1	It means the beginning of something which usually refers to a place.	سافرت من كوالا ترنجانو	Saya bermusafir <u>dari</u> Kuala Terengganu
2	Shows the meaning of a part.	أنفقت من مالي	Saya mendermakan <u>sebahagian</u> harta saya.
3	It means the type of something or thing.	الكعكة من قمح	Kek itu <u>daripada</u> gandum.
4	It means the difference between two things.	الأستاذ أعرف من الطالب	Ustaz lebih mengetahui <u>daripada</u> pelajar itu.

From the explanation of the meanings in the preposition *min*, it can be concluded that the word *min* carries a variety of connotations. This variety of meanings is determined by the context of the sentence that uses the word *min*. Therefore, its use needs to be adapted to the context of the sentence so that it can give the correct meaning. (Shahrizal Nasir, Kamarul Nasir, 2021).

In general, if the Arabic preposition *min* is translated into Malay, then it can be translated as "*dari*" or "*daripada*". However, both of these words have their own meanings and usage procedures according to Malay grammatical rules. In Malay grammatical rules, the particles "*dari*" and "*daripada*" belong to the category of preposition or *Kata Sendi Nama*.

b) Understand the context of the words (*dari*) and (*daripada*) as translations of the Arabic preposition *min*

According to Abdullah Hassan, Malay prepositions or *Frasa Sendi Nama* determine the relationship between two nouns that function to determine the place and direction of something (Abdullah, 1993). Other examples of prepositions are (*di*, *ke*, *pada*, *kepada*, *untuk*, *akan*, *bagi*, *hingga*, *oleh*, *dengan*, *tentang*, *sampai*, *menerusi*, *melalui*, *mengenai*, *berkenaan dan berkaitan*) (Abdullah, 1993). Prepositions are used in sentences with the purpose of expressing the relationship between a noun and other specific ideas found in the sentence

(Muhammad Bukhari, 1998). The preposition '*dari*' is used in front of a noun or noun phrase that expresses direction, place, time or time (Muhammad Bukhari, 1998). Asmah Omar classifies the preposition '*dari*' as a Preposition of Time which is included in the discussion of Particles and Prepositions (Asmah, 2009). Examples of the use of the conjunction '*dari*' in sentences are as follows:

The meanings of Preposition <i>dari</i>	Examples of the preposition (<i>dari</i>) in Malay sentences
The preposition <i>dari</i> that shows place and direction.	a) Angin kencang bertiup <u>dari</u> arah selatan. b) Bola itu ditolak <u>dari</u> penjuru padang. c) Kami akan membincangkan tajuk ini <u>dari</u> segi moral. d) Muhammad merantau <u>dari</u> Selangor hingga ke Terengganu
The preposition <i>dari</i> that shows time	a) Berita itu telah disampaikan <u>dari</u> subuh lagi. b) Tamadun Islam telah wujud sejak <u>dari</u> zaman lampau. c) Dia telah menunggu <u>dari</u> pukul tujuh pagi hingga sekarang. d) <u>Dari</u> zaman batu lagi, manusia telah mula hidup berdikari.

This is different from the use of the preposition '*daripada*' which is only used in front of a noun or noun phrase that states the cause of a human or animal or thing, the origin of an event and the source or element of comparison or difference (Asmah, 2009). An example of the use of the preposition '*daripada*' in a sentence is as follows:

The meanings of Preposition <i>daripada</i>	Examples of the preposition (<i>daripada</i>) in Malay sentences
The preposition ' <i>daripada</i> ' which expresses the cause of a person, animal or thing.	a) Dia terima surat itu <u>daripada</u> bapanya di kampung. b) Cadangan <u>daripada</u> persatuan itu telah diterima. c) Penjaga zoo itu telah mendapat tendangan <u>daripada</u> gajah liar itu. d) Dia menjauhkan adiknya <u>daripada</u> bahaya dadah.
The preposition ' <i>daripada</i> ' which expresses the meaning of the source or origin of something.	a) Beg itu dibuat <u>daripada</u> kapas. b) Air berpunca <u>daripada</u> gabungan hidrogen dan oksigen. c) Ahli kumpulan itu terdiri <u>daripada</u> ibu bapa dan guru. d) Benang berasal <u>daripada</u> kapas.
The preposition ' <i>daripada</i> ' shows difference or comparison.	a) Dia lebih jelita <u>daripada</u> adiknya. b) Cara berfikirnya lain <u>daripada</u> yang lain. c) Markah yang diperolehinya hanya separuh <u>daripada</u> yang dijangkakan. d) Dia lebih pendiam <u>daripada</u> abangnya.

From the explanation regarding the Arabic preposition *min* and the Malay preposition '*dari*' and '*daripada*', it can be understood that although the word *min* is generally translated as '*dari*' or '*daripada*', there is a clear difference in the connotation of the meaning of both in

Malay grammatical rules. This matter needs to be addressed carefully especially when it involves the translation of Arabic sentences into Malay.

c) Understand the variety of translations of the Arabic prepositions *fi* and *min* and their functions in the Malay language

The discussion on the function of Arabic prepositions in the Malay language has helped translators and students to understand a speech more easily and accurately. The diversity of lexical patterns in the Malay language was identified after the analysis process was carried out using a contrastive approach (Mohd Luqman ibnul Hakim, 2014). The following are the diversity of functions supported by Arabic-Malay prepositions along with examples and translations.

The Arabic preposition *min* that contribute to seven lexical words in the Malay language along with their functions:

PREPOSITION	EXAMPLES	MALAY TRANSLATION	LEXICAL WORDS	FUNCTIONS
<i>Min</i> (من)	جدران القصر من حجر الجرانيت	Dinding istana diperbuat <u>daripada</u> batu konkrit	Daripada	Used for humans, the origin of something, comparisons or differences between parts of something and abstract things.
	قد اطلقت من عقاليها	Terlepas dari <u>kekangannya</u>	Dari	Used for time, place and direction.
	أما الفقير فهو واحد من اثنين	Orang miskin ialah salah satu <u>antara</u> dua	Antara	Used to describe a place that has no distance or space and functions as a directional word.
	خوفا من الجبار الأعلى	Kerana ketakutan <u>terhadap</u> al jabbar al akla	Terhadap	Used to refer to people, animals or things.
	أراد مسرور أن يصرخ من الفرع	Masrur ingin menjerit <u>kerana</u> ketakutan	Kerana	Shows a relationship that implies cause.
	فلما دخلت الغرفة من غيرهم	Apabila bilik itu kosong <u>kecuali</u> mereka bertiga	Kecuali	Brings the meaning other than/ unless
	تتأثر النجوم المجرات من فوقها (الأرض)	Bintang-bintang planet di langit bertaburan <u>di</u> atas bumi	Di	Used specifically for place and direction.

The Arabic preposition *fi* which contributes to eight lexical words in the Malay language along with its functions:

PREPOSITION	EXAMPLES	MALAY TRANSLATION	LEXICAL WORDS	FUNCTIONS
<i>Fi</i> (في)	يجلس مسرور في صدر المائدة	Masrur duduk <u>di</u> tengah-tengah meja	Di	Used specifically for place and direction.
	في الليلة الثالثة	<u>Pada</u> malam ke tiga	Pada	Used for time, people, animals, places and abstract things
	أقوى رجل في المملكة	Paling berkuasa <u>dalam</u> negara	Dalam	Used to describe a place that has no space or

				distance and functions as a directional word.
	فإذا فرطت في قرش واحد	Jika berlaku kelalaian <u>terhadap</u> wang sesen	Terhadap	Used to refer to people, animals or things.
	في أي ثروة	<u>Bagi</u> sebarang kejayaan	Bagi	Used to indicate the use of something and state the meaning of the specified part.
	أحس بوجود زائر غريب فيها	Merasa ada seorang tetamu ajaib <u>di</u> <u>dalamnya</u>	Di dalam	Used to express the meaning of a place that has no space or distance.
	فكر مقرور سريعا في التهمة	Makrur berfikir pantas <u>mengenai</u> tuduhan itu	Mengenai	Used to refer to something that is not specific or general
	مرحبا بك في العالم الآخر	Selamat datang anda <u>ke</u> alam akhirat	Ke	Used to indicate place or direction and time.

CONCLUSIONS

There is great diversity in the translation of the Arabic prepositions *fi* and *min* into Malay, in which it is reflecting the complexity of the Arabic language structure and the variation of meaning in different contexts. The main challenges in translating these prepositions include differences in meaning and context, as well as the imbalance of syntactic structure between Arabic and Malay. In overcoming these challenges, translators use literal or contextual translation strategies, depending on the context of the sentence and the purpose of the translation. It is important to assess the suitability of the translation of Arabic prepositions into Malay with the context of the original Arabic sentence and the purpose of the translation so that the understanding of the original text is not changed. The results of this study can provide guidance and support to professional translators in improving their skills in translating these Arabic prepositions accurately and effectively. The analysis of these translation challenges also contributes to a general understanding of the process of cross-language and cross-cultural translation and provides a deeper insight into the structure of Arabic and Malay. Thus, this study not only highlights the difficulties in translating Arabic prepositions into Malay, but also offers strategies for solving them and provides useful guidance for translators and scholars involved in the fields of translation and linguistics.

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